and the swamping of one species by another kept at a minimum. The population maintains itself vegetatively; therefore, it is morphologically uniform.—William M. Keith, Jr., department of botany, university of kansas, lawrence, kansas.

Note on the Habitat of Aster ptarmicoides.—*Aster ptarmicoides* (Nees) T. & G., grows abundantly in low, wet, clayey and presumably calcareous soil in a restricted area along the edge of a golf links at Manchester, Vermont. I have placed a specimen which I collected at this station on August 27, 1956, in the Herbarium of the New England Botanical Club.

In Gray's Manual 8th Ed. (1950) Fernald's key to the §*Orthomeris* to which this species is assigned uses the word "xerophytic" as a diagnostic trait of *A. ptarmicoides*. He describes its habitat as "dry, mostly calcareous, rocks, bluffs and sands." Gray's Manual 7th Ed. (1907) specified the habitat as "dry, calcareous soil." In Britton & Brown (1952) Gleason uses the phrase "prairies and other usually dry places," without referring to its apparent preference for calcareous soils.

An examination of the material in the Gray and New England Botanical Club Herbaria reveals that out of 106 specimens 39 labels give no significant habitat data; 41 were from distinctly xerophytic or dry situations, chiefly calcareous; 19 from low ground, sandy or rocky shores, etc.; 5 from "moist" or "wet" low ground or meadow; and one each from "limey" and "clayey" soil (excluding my specimen). Judging by the localities from which the 39 unannotated specimens were collected I imagine that many of them were from calcareous regions.

Thus, it appears that *A. ptarmicoides* is not a true xerophyte, is probably a calciphile, and frequently occurs in moist to wet soils. Perhaps future printings of Gray's and Britton & Brown's should reflect the foregoing observations.—Richard J. Eaton, lincoln, massachusetts.

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